

Application Serial No.: 10/783,100
Amdt. dated November 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The *Ex parte Quayle* Office Action dated September 8, 2005 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 12 and 15-18 and added new Claims 19-23 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 1-23 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has deemed Claims 1-17 allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the informal claim objections set forth in the Office Action. The Examiner states that the application is in condition for allowance except for these informalities and, therefore, prosecution on the merits has been closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 12 and 15-17 to address each of the informalities set forth in the Office Action. In making these amendments, Applicants have noticed an additional informality in Claims 2 and 18 and have amended these claims accordingly. (It is noted that the Examiner did not include Claim 18 in the list of allowable claims. It is, however, assumed that Claim 18, as amended, is also allowable by virtue of its dependence on allowable Claim 12.)

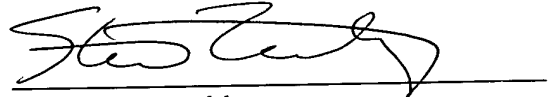
Applicants have also added new dependent Claims 19 and 20, new independent Claim 21 and new dependent Claims 22 and 23. New Claims 19 and 20 depend from allowable Claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable. New independent Claim 21 includes the subject matter of allowable Claim 1, but is written in a more conventional claim format. Accordingly, it is believed that new independent Claim 21 is also allowable. New dependent Claims 22 and 23 depend from new independent Claim 21 and are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 1-23 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner

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believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance,
he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed
below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven T. Zuschlag', written over a horizontal line.

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